



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## **Senior Affairs Advisory Board (SAAB)**

### **Minutes**

### **Wednesday, April 5, 2006**

Meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Chairperson Pat Ford.

**Members Present:** Millie Acasio, Dolli Cutler, Sam Duran, John Patrick Ford, Leane Marchese, Sharon McColl **Excused Absences:** Floyd Willis, Rosemary White-Pope, Floyd Willis, Cheryl Wilson **Staff Present:** Diana Gray **Guests:** Burt Disner, Paul Greenwood, Sari Hamerling, Joanne Price,

#### **Modifications to the Agenda:**

Transportation related issue to be presented during Transportation Committee Report Out.

**Minutes:** Leane Marchese moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2005; January 4, 2006; February 1, 2006; and March 1, 2006 board meetings. Sam Duran seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### **Elder Abuse – Deputy District Attorney Paul Greenwood**

Paul Greenwood has been prosecuting Elder Abuse cases for more than 10 years. Paul not only prosecutes cases of Elder Abuse but strives to educate others about the subject of Elder Abuse. Elders are defined as those individuals who are 65 years of age and older.

Typically areas of criminal activity that targets the elderly are physical abuse, physical neglect, and financial exploitation. An important factor of elder abuse is you don't have to prove actual physical harm, just intent to place an elder in a potentially dangerous situation.

A majority of the cases, approximately 65% to 70% involve ripping off elders. And \$400 or more is the level when it is considered a felony.

It is known that many caregivers of elderly have criminal backgrounds. Background checks are not done on caregivers of the elderly. It is currently not a requirement. It is rumored that felons are being trained in prison to become caregivers of elderly.

Great strides have been made in trying and convicting the crimes against the elderly. The potential for exploiting seniors is huge. There is a perception by seniors that if they come forward that somehow others will see them as not being able to take care of themselves and put them in a care facility.

90% of Clergy are unaware that they are mandated by the state to report suspected elder abuse. Usually perpetrators cultivate an area of isolation around the seniors. Many times, the families and friends are unaware of the abuse until it is too late. Also, starting this January 2007,

Financial Institutions are going to be obligated to scrutinize account activity of the elderly for possible fraud.

Unlicensed contractors are also a huge problem for seniors.

Background checks on caregivers have become extremely important.

Paul Greenwood has developed a "Top 10" list for Seniors to reduce the risk of becoming victims of financial exploitations. For instance, seniors still put their mail out and this is a red flag to criminals. Paul has focused some of his efforts on pushing for secured mailboxes. Mr. Greenwood will email Pat Ford a copy of the Top 10 list for Seniors to reduce the risk of becoming victims of financial exploitation.

There is no ordinance on the books in San Diego to require every person who wants to be a caregiver in the City of San Diego to register and pay to submit to a background check and be registered to be able to legally provide care to seniors in San Diego.

Mr. Greenwood has received a citywide grant of \$400,000 over the next 2 years from Archstone for Eldercare issues to develop a program for wrap around services at the Family Justice Center. He continues to be made aware of the need to protect our seniors as much as our children. Paul Greenwood welcomed collaborative efforts in the future as it relates to the prevention of elder abuse. He offered to do a co-presentation on the state of Elder Abuse in the City of San Diego.

### **Old Business:**

**Housing Committee (Cheryl Wilson):** Leane Marchese reported on the Mather's Café which is currently in the design phase. They have been successful in securing four sources of funding to do the build-out. This program will be geared toward seniors who are in the \$10,000 to \$18,000 a year income range. The meals will be subsidized with seniors paying for a portion of their meals. The design will look more like a Starbucks than a cafeteria.

**Transportation Committee (Floyd Willis):** Barbara Workman issued regarding ITNAmerica Grant referred to Floyd Willis.

Pat Ford will speak with Floyd Willis to see where we are in making a presentation to the MTS Board on the state of seniors in San Diego.

**AIS Advisory Council Report (Dolli Cutler):** Dolli reported on the County's Intergenerational Programs. AIS has received a grant from the Americorp Group and the University of Maryland to develop additional intergenerational programs with schools. Currently, AIS is working with schools to have seniors at the lunch hour to have seniors lunch with children.

The Area Plan on Aging was presented and that is not due until August. This plan goes to the state where it is compiled with other area reports into combined report to the Federal Government. This report determines what the money will be focused on. AIS will be filled in

on the latest development in July when we will put in our recommendations. If there are questions on Area Plan on Aging, please feel free to see Dolli or Floyd Willis. This plan determines the direction where the Agency on Aging will go in the next year.

Dolli informed the SAAB board that there is a 211 number that is being rolled out. It is similar to calling 411. 211 is an information referral line for services. If an agency is having difficulty in being added to this resource directory, they should contact the Aging and Independence Services Agency or Floyd Willis.

**Membership:** The board has 3 vacant seats. This issue has been sent to the Mayor for action.

**Andrew Poat – City’s Legislative Plan:** This had been scheduled for today; however, it has been rescheduled to go before the Rules Committee on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is when the Sarbane’s resolution will be presented.

**Council Presentations:** The presentation that Leane Marchese made before council yesterday was well received. SAAB was able to get the Emergency Preparedness concern before council.

**New Business:**

**Senior Issue(s):** Leane Marchese will draft up a report to bring before the City Council for a Tuesday morning presentation during the public comment section. The topic covered will be Disaster Preparedness. She will coordinate with Pat Ford.

**Invitation to Councilmembers to attend SAAB monthly meetings:** Diana Gray will notify council offices of upcoming SAAB Meetings.

**SAAB Annual Report:** Preparing to draft report to be presented in June 2006. Pat Ford is in the process of securing a docket date.

**Announcements/Public Comment:**

Sari Hammerling distributed announcements of an Emergency Preparedness Workshop this Friday, April 7, 2006 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Toby Wells YMCA at 5105 Overland Avenue in San Diego. To RSVP and for more information, please call (619) 645-3090.

Millie Acasio distributed copies of the April/May/June issue of “The Scroll”.

Burt Disner of North Coast Home Health Products announced that he had two toll free telephone numbers that could be used to get information free of charge. The first number is to access information only on San Diego Businesses (800) 726-3434 (you will be charged when you’re connected). The second number (800) 411-6387 is a national number (you will not be charged when you’re connected).

Joanne Price announced that her organization, Response Link San Diego, has been granted \$50,000 from AIS to create a video for Fall Prevention for Seniors. She expects the video to be completed by June 2006.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

*Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

*Chairperson: Patrick Ford*

*SAAB website: <http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/boards-commissions/senior.shtml>*

*City Staff: Diana Gray -- telephone: (619) 533-3913*